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FOIA(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024(i) (1) -
Intelligence Sources and Methods

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~~SECRET~~/WNINTEL [REDACTED]

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SUBJ: DIA DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE (DIN) (U)

DIADIN 124-5A (AS OF: 1933 EDT 4 MAY 78)

ARGENTINA: ~~X~~ BACKGROUND OF VIDELA APPOINTMENT. (U)

1. (~~S~~/WNINTEL [REDACTED]) THE COMMITTEE THAT SETTLED THE JUNTA'S PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION DEADLOCK WAS APPARENTLY CONVENED AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE DISSENTER, ADMIRAL EMILIO MASSERA, WHO AGREED TO ABIDE BY ITS DECISION. IT RENOMINATED PRESIDENT JORGE VIDELA AND REPORTEDLY RESOLVED MAJOR INTERSERVICE DIFFERENCES OVER JUNTA AND PRESIDENTIAL POWER.

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2. (~~S~~/WNINTEL [REDACTED]) MASSERA REITERATED THE NAVY'S OPPOSITION TO VIDELA AT THE 27 APRIL JUNTA SESSION. HE PROPOSED THAT THE ARMY PRESENT THREE OTHER CANDIDATES FOR THE JUNTA TO CONSIDER. WHEN

VIDELA AND AIR FORCE COMMANDER LT GEN ORLANDO AGOSTI REJECTED THAT PLAN, MASSERA SUGGESTED THE CREATION OF AN INTER-SERVICE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICERS TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE. VIDELA AND AGOSTI AGREED AFTER SECURING MASSERA'S PLEDGE TO GO ALONG WITH THE COMMITTEE'S DECISION.

3. (S//WNINTEL) [REDACTED] THE COMMITTEE MET ON THE 29TH AND 30TH, AND NOMINATED VIDELA FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM ENDING IN MARCH 1981. THE JUNTA RATIFIED AND ANNOUNCED THIS CHOICE ON 2 MAY. IT ALSO REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT THE SERVICE SECRETARIES GENERAL SHOULD MEET TO DELINEATE THE JUNTA'S POWERS UNDER GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED AT THE 29 AND 30 APRIL SESSION.

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4. (S//WNINTEL) [REDACTED] THE SENIOR OFFICERS AGREED THAT LEGISLATIVE POWERS WILL NOT CHANGE. THE LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAL) WILL CONTINUE TO ADVISE THE PRESIDENT, WHO IN TURN DECREES LAWS. THE JUNTA INTERVENES TO SETTLE DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE CAL AND THE PRESIDENT. EACH SERVICE WILL PARTICIPATE IN SELECTING CABINET MINISTERS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS IN A MANNER TO BE DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARIES

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GENERAL. THE JUNTA WILL STILL BE ABOVE THE PRESIDENT; THEREFORE, HE WILL NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO APPOINT OR DISMISS SERVICE COMMANDERS. THE HIERARCHY ISSUE HAD CAUSED MUCH FRICTION AMONG THE MILITARY BRANCHES DURING EARLIE

DISCUSSIONS ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT.

5. ~~SECRET~~ WHILE ANTI-VIDELA NAVY SENTIMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN PIQUED BY THE COMMITTEE'S SELECTION, THE AIR FORCE AND NAVY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT APPEASED BY THE DECISION LIMITING PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY. THE JUNTA'S NEED TO DEFER THE SUCCESSION MATTER TO A JOINT-SERVICE BODY LARGELY REFLECTS THE PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES THAT WILL CONTINUE TO IMPEDE THE JUNTA'S WORK DURING ITS WANING MONTHS. THE DEFERRAL ALSO SUGGESTS THAT OTHER MAJOR MATTERS MAY HAVE TO BE DECIDED SIMILARLY.

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~~SECRET~~/WNIWTEL [REDACTED]

2375

SUBJ: DIA DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE NOTICE (DIN) (U)

DIADIN 123-3A (AS OF: 1532 EDT 3 MAY 78)

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ARGENTINA: PRESIDENT VIDELA APPOINTED TO SECOND TERM. (U)

1. (C) [REDACTED] WEEKS OF POLITICAL MANEUVERING AND INTRAJUNTA
FRICTION HAVE CULMINATED IN THE SELECTION OF ARMY COMMANDER
IN CHIEF GEN JORGE VIDELA TO SERVE A NEW TERM, EXTENDING HIS
PRESIDENCY UNTIL MARCH 1981. VIDELA WILL RETIRE AS ARMY-COM-
MANDER ON 1 AUGUST, THUS INAUGURATING THE PERIOD OF JOINT PRESI-
DENTIAL-JUNTA RULE THAT REPRESENTS THE SECOND PHASE IN THE
MILITARY'S PLAN TO EVENTUALLY RETURN TO A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF
GOVERNMENT.

2. (U) A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED AT THE CLOSE OF THE 2 MAY SESSION
OF THE JUNTA ANNOUNCED THAT VIDELA WILL SERVE THE 29 MAR 78-
29 MAR 81 TERM. THE STATEMENT ALSO REVEALED THAT THE JUNTA

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PAGE 2 [REDACTED] ~~SECRET~~

HAS ORDERED THE APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS TO STUDY AND PROPOSE, BEFORE 15 JULY, RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF POWER BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE JUNTA.

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3. ~~(S//NINTEL)~~ [REDACTED] THE PRESIDENTIAL CHOICE HAD BEEN POSTPONED AT LEAST TWICE DURING APRIL BECAUSE OF THE NAVY'S RELUCTANCE TO SUPPORT VIDELA. THE CONSENSUS APPARENTLY WAS REACHED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND ENDED THEIR SESSION BY FORMALLY NOMINATING VIDELA. THERE IS ALSO A POSSIBILITY THAT [REDACTED] MAY HAVE OBTAINED SOME CONCESSION ON OTHER ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE IN EXCHANGE FOR CONSENTING TO THE NOMINATION. [REDACTED]

EO25x1

[REDACTED] WAS SEEKING TO BLOCK THE ANTICIPATED PROMOTION OF MAJ GEN ROBERTO ~~X~~ VIOLA TO ARMY COMMANDER AND TO ARRANGE THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL LESS SUBSERVIENT TO HIM IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE THE JUNTA'S INDEPENDENCE. VIDELA'S SUCCESSOR HAS NOT YET BEEN NAMED. [REDACTED] HAS ALSO PUSHED FOR REVISION OF THE NATION'S ECONOMIC POLICY.

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4. ~~(C)~~ [REDACTED] DESPITE THE RELIEF BROUGHT BY VIDELA'S APPOINTMENT, THERE ARE STILL IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED, PARTICULARLY THE QUESTION OF THE POWER STRUCTURE. OBSERVERS IN BUENOS

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PAGE 3 [REDACTED] ~~SECRET~~

AIRES FEEL THAT NAVY COMMANDER IN CHIEF ADM EMILIO MASSERA WILL CONTINUE TO EXERT AS MUCH INFLUENCE AS HE CAN TO MAINTAIN A MAJOR VOICE FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND TO IMPROVE HIS POSITION AS A CANDIDATE IN A FUTURE ELECTION. MASSERA IS TO REMAIN IN THE JUNTA FOR ONE MONTH AFTER VIDELA RETIRES AND, IF THE POWER STRUCTURE HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED BEFOREHAND, WILL PROBABLY USE THAT TIME TO MAKE A FINAL EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE JUNTA REMAINS SUPERIOR TO THE PRESIDENCY. SINCE VIDELA AND THE ARMY HOPE TO REVERSE THAT RELATIONSHIP, FURTHER INTER-SERVICE CLASHES MAY WELL OCCUR AS THE SPECIFICS OF THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT ARE IRONED OUT.

PREPARED BY: [REDACTED]

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